

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
 2 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
 3 AT TACOMA

4 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,        )  
 5                   Plaintiff,        )  
 6 vs.                                 )  
 7 BRIANA WATERS,                 )  
 8                   Defendant.       )  
 9 \_\_\_\_\_)

10

Docket No. CR05-5828FDB  
 Tacoma, Washington  
 March 6, 2008

11                                 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS  
 12                   BEFORE THE HONORABLE FRANKLIN D. BURGESS  
 13 SENIOR UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, and a jury.

14 APPEARANCES:

15 For the Plaintiff:               MARK N. BARTLETT  
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20 For the Defendant:             ROBERT BLOOM  
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24                                       NEIL M. FOX  
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26 Court Reporter:               Teri Hendrix  
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31 Proceedings recorded by mechanical stenography, transcript  
 32 produced by Reporter on computer.

1 THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2008 - 10:10 A.M.

2 \* \* \*

3 (Jury not present.)

4 THE CLERK: This is in the matter of the United  
5 States of America versus Briana Waters, Cause No. CR05-5828  
6 FDB.

7 Counsel, please make an appearance for the record.

8 MR. FRIEDMAN: Good morning, Your Honor, Andrew  
9 Friedman and Mark Bartlett for the United States. Ted Halla  
10 is here from the FBI.

11 MR. FOX: Good morning, Neil Fox and Robert Bloom for  
12 Briana Waters, who's present.

13 THE COURT: All right. I had sent to you a jury note  
14 that I intend to send to the jury, and the note is asking them  
15 to fill in the verdict form with regard to any count or counts  
16 as to which they have reached a unanimous verdict, and do not  
17 provide any information with regard to any counts as to which  
18 they have not reached a unanimous verdict.

19 I intend to, with that, take a partial verdict on the  
20 matter. Then after that has been done, I will deal with what  
21 the defense has recommended, that is dealing with the  
22 remaining -- whatever that may be -- as to whether this jury  
23 is deadlocked as to that matter.

24 That's the fashion in which I am going to do this. Okay.

25 MR. FOX: May I be heard on that, Your Honor?

1       Your Honor, I think that -- I guess the question that we  
2 have is what does the Court intend to do with the verdict  
3 form? Because it is our position that it's not a final  
4 verdict until it's announced in open court and the jury is  
5 polled.

6           THE COURT: All of that will take place as I get the  
7 partial verdict. The jury will be in the jury box when I do  
8 all of that, and then I will deal with what is left that is  
9 not dealt with on that verdict form. I will deal with that in  
10 terms of the deadlock.

11          MR. FOX: So the Court is going to have them fill out  
12 the form, come in and announce their verdict on those counts?

13          THE COURT: That's correct. They are not going to  
14 send the verdict form out. I just want to know if they have  
15 done this in accordance with this. If they have done that,  
16 then I will bring them in and I will ask them the usual  
17 questions I normally ask them.

18          MR. FOX: It is our position if the jury is going to  
19 return a partial verdict, that they also have to be informed  
20 that that partial verdict is final, that they cannot change  
21 their minds if they go back and deliberate on other counts.

22          THE COURT: I will poll the jury and I will get that  
23 information. All right.

24          So what I have given you, I intend to sign that and date  
25 it now; and today, I believe, is the 6th, and the time being

1 10:18. I am signing it now. As soon as they indicate to the  
2 bailiff that they have done that, I will have them here. So,  
3 we will take a brief recess and get an answer.

4 THE CLERK: All rise, court is in recess.

5 (Recess at 10:18 a.m.)

6 THE COURT: All right. You may be seated.

7 All right. Bring them in.

8 (Jury present.)

9 THE COURT: All right, you may be seated.

10 Good morning to you. All right, it is my understanding  
11 now -- Mr. Martinez, I am speaking to you as the presiding  
12 juror -- that in keeping with my last instruction to you, that  
13 you would fill out the verdict form as to counts that you have  
14 made a unanimous verdict on. That's been done?

15 PRESIDING JUROR: Yes.

16 THE COURT: The ones you didn't make a decision on,  
17 nothing has been entered into that part of the verdict form?

18 PRESIDING JUROR: That's correct, sir.

19 THE COURT: So the jury now, you've reached a  
20 unanimous verdict, have you?

21 PRESIDING JUROR: Yes, sir.

22 THE COURT: As to those partial counts?

23 PRESIDING JUROR: Yes, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: It's a unanimous verdict?

25 PRESIDING JUROR: Yes, Your Honor.

1           THE COURT: I am going to have you present that to  
2 the clerk, please.

3           (Verdict form handed to the bailiff.)

4           THE COURT: All right. The clerk will read the  
5 verdict.

6           THE CLERK: United States District Court, Western  
7 District of Washington, at Tacoma, United States of America,  
8 versus Briana Waters, Cause No. CR05-5828 FDB.

9           Verdict.

10          We, the jury, unanimously find the following:

11          Count 5, arson of a building in interstate commerce or in  
12 activity affecting interstate commerce: Guilty.

13          Count 7, arson of a building belonging to an institution  
14 receiving federal financial assistance: Guilty.

15          Dated this 6th day of March, 2008.

16          Presiding juror, Mr. Martinez.

17          THE COURT: All right. Poll the jury now as to that  
18 count.

19          THE CLERK: Mr. Rose, is the verdict as read, as to  
20 each count, your verdict and the verdict of the jury?

21          JUROR: Yes.

22          THE COURT: Read it as to Count 5 and then as to  
23 Count 7.

24          THE CLERK: As to Count 5?

25          JUROR: Yes.

1 THE CLERK: And as to Count 6?

2 THE COURT: -- Count 7.

3 THE CLERK: As to Count 5 and 7?

4 JUROR: Yes.

5 THE CLERK: Mr. Gordon, is the verdict as read as to  
6 each count, Count 5 and 7, your verdict and the verdict of the  
7 jury?

8 JUROR: Yes, ma'am.

9 THE COURT: Ms. Penn, is the verdict as read as to  
10 each count, Count 5 and 7, your verdict and the verdict of the  
11 jury?

12 JUROR: Yes.

13 THE CLERK: Ms. Stewart, is the verdict as read as to  
14 each count, Count 5 and 7, your verdict and the verdict of the  
15 jury?

16 JUROR: Yes.

17 THE CLERK: Ms. Hough, is the verdict as read as to  
18 each count, Count 5 and 7, your verdict and the verdict of the  
19 jury?

20 JUROR: Yes, it is.

21 THE COURT: Ms. Terry, is the verdict as read as to  
22 each count, Count 5 and 7, your verdict and the verdict of the  
23 jury?

24 JUROR: Yes.

25 THE COURT: Mr. Rito, is the verdict as read as to

1 each count, Count 5 and 7, your verdict and the verdict of the  
2 jury?

3 JUROR: Yes.

4 THE CLERK: Ms. Mezger, is the verdict as read as to  
5 each count, Count 5 and 7, your verdict and the verdict of the  
6 jury?

7 JUROR: Yes.

8 THE CLERK: Ms. Coleman, is the verdict as read as to  
9 each count, Count 5 and 7, your verdict and the verdict of the  
10 jury?

11 JUROR: Yes.

12 THE CLERK: Mr. Martinez, is the verdict as read as  
13 to each count, Count 5 and 7, your verdict and the verdict of  
14 the jury?

15 JUROR: It is.

16 THE CLERK: Mr. Spradley, is the verdict as read as  
17 to each count, Count 5 and 7, your verdict and the verdict of  
18 the jury?

19 JUROR: Yes, it is.

20 THE CLERK: Ms. Kounse, is the verdict as read as to  
21 each count, Count 5 and 7, your verdict and the verdict of the  
22 jury?

23 JUROR: Yes.

24 THE COURT: All right.

25 As to those two counts, those verdicts will be filed.

1 I have a few more questions for you, and now I am talking  
2 to you about the counts which you did not make any kind of  
3 decision on. Would it do any good now for you to go back and  
4 deliberate and keep working at this; do you feel you could  
5 reach a verdict if that is done?

6 (Jurors shaking heads.)

7 THE COURT: Are you saying to me if I leave you here  
8 until God knows when, you will be in the situation you are in  
9 now?

10 (Jurors nodding heads).

11 THE COURT: Is that to say you are hopelessly  
12 deadlocked about those other counts that you are called on to  
13 answer?

14 (Jurors nodding heads).

15 THE COURT: All right. Well, I think that answers  
16 the question on those counts.

17 I will hear from counsel. It seems to me that it wouldn't  
18 make a lot of sense to send them back; they have been out for  
19 four days, five days on this matter?

20 MR. BARTLETT: Perhaps outside the presence of the  
21 jury.

22 THE COURT: Let me do this. Let me have you folks  
23 step out again for a minute, and then I will have you back in  
24 here and I will tell you where we go from here.

25 (Jury not present.)



1 THE COURT: All right. You may be seated.

2 I think their answer -- I will have you speak to that --  
3 they have been out a while.

4 MR. BARTLETT: Your Honor, the United States is not  
5 requesting any further deliberations.

6 I would ask that the jury -- that the Court ask the jury  
7 to provide us with a split with regard to the remaining counts  
8 which would help us in determining whether or not we will  
9 proceed to a second trial with regard to the counts that the  
10 jury has not reached a unanimous verdict on.

11 MR. FOX: We would move for a mistrial, which I am  
12 not sure they are opposing.

13 THE COURT: Tell me what you are talking about,  
14 mistrial --

15 MR. FOX: With regard to the counts for which they  
16 haven't reached a verdict on.

17 THE COURT: Okay.

18 MR. FOX: I am making a formal motion.

19 THE COURT: All right, but there are no other issues  
20 as to a mistrial. Okay, then let me -- bring them back in.

21 MR. BARTLETT: Just for the record, we are obviously  
22 opposed to the motion for mistrial, with regard to double  
23 jeopardy claims.

24 THE COURT: Well, I am not granting anything; the  
25 jury has spoken.

1           MR. FOX: While we are waiting, I am curious what  
2 this Court's policy is with regard to discussions with jurors.

3           THE COURT: I am going to deal with that. You will  
4 hear about that as they come in.

5           MR. BARTLETT: I remind the Court of the local rule  
6 which prevents discussions.

7           THE COURT: I will deal with that issue.

8           (Jury present.)

9           THE COURT: You may be seated.

10          All right. The Court has decided that it wouldn't make  
11 much sense for you folks to keep deliberating on these  
12 particular counts. So with that, your inability to do that, I  
13 will declare you are deadlocked as to those issues and you  
14 won't be called on to deliberate further.

15          With that, that is going to bring your services to an end.  
16 You will be discharged to go about your way.

17          Again, I want to thank you for your services. It's been a  
18 long trial and a lot of things going on. I don't want you to  
19 leave here and think that all the time you've spent is gone.  
20 I appreciate it. I want to personally thank you in doing  
21 that. I want to also advise you of what I am going to advise  
22 the attorneys on. I will do that as I talk to you at the same  
23 time.

24          Under the local rules I am ordering the attorneys -- and  
25 it reads this way: Counsel shall not contact or interview

1 jurors, or cause jurors to be contacted or interviewed after  
2 trial, without having first been granted leave to do so by  
3 this Court.

4 So, you are not to talk to the attorneys about the case or  
5 anything else. Go about your way. Again, I thank you for  
6 your services. I guess they go back through the clerk's  
7 office. I will have you go back through the clerk's office,  
8 and they will process you out from there.

9 Again, I thank you and you are discharged.

10 (Jury not present.)

11 All right. You may be seated.

12 The verdict will be filed. The jury has spoken, so now  
13 the issue is, of course, a sentencing date on this matter.

14 Pat, what date do we have on that?

15 THE CLERK: May 30, 2008, 10 a.m.

16 THE COURT: All right. The sentencing date will be  
17 May 30, 2008, 10:00 a.m.

18 I am now signing an order as to the procedure that we will  
19 use as we work towards that date. If any issues need to be  
20 ironed out requiring a hearing on something, we'll take care  
21 of that.

22 All right. Now, the other issue, of course, is the  
23 defendant's been convicted. The situation involving her  
24 pending sentencing, is that an issue?

25 MR. BARTLETT: It is, Your Honor. If I could briefly

1 address the Court.

2 I have a motion that we have prepared, that I will file at  
3 this point in time.

4 Your Honor, the defendant has been convicted of a crime of  
5 violence. Under the Bail Reform Act, the Court has no  
6 discretion. The defendant must be detained pending sentence.

7 It is a "shall," not a "may," and we are asking that the  
8 Court follow the law in this case.

9 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Bloom.

10 MR. BLOOM: I would like to read this.

11 THE COURT: Then we'll take a recess to do that.

12 MR. BLOOM: Very brief recess.

13 THE CLERK: All rise, court is in recess.

14 (Brief recess.)

15 (Back in open court at 11:00 a.m.)

16 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Bloom, I will give you a  
17 chance to respond.

18 MR. BLOOM: Good morning, again, Judge Burgess.

19 In the end, this decision is really within the Court's  
20 discretion. It is governed by authority from 18 United States  
21 Code 3143. It is also governed by a decision in the United  
22 States v. Garcia, 340 F.3d 1013, a 2003 Ninth Circuit  
23 decision.

24 I would like to bring the Court's attention -- I am sure  
25 the Court is familiar with the case and the provisions in

1 general, that the key here is that indeed it is always within  
2 the Court's discretion whether it be deemed a crime of  
3 violence or not.

4 And the reality is here -- and there are two key factors,  
5 and I think there has not even been an argument in the motion  
6 or at any time by the government that either Ms. Waters is a  
7 risk of flight or presents any danger whatsoever to the  
8 community or any member of the community.

9 I want particularly to talk about the issue of risk of  
10 flight. I think not only has she always appeared, and she's  
11 been exemplary in terms of meeting her obligations with the  
12 pretrial people, both in open and here. Most importantly, the  
13 fact that she's here this morning, understanding that the jury  
14 could have come in and sentenced her, effectively, doomed her  
15 to a 35-year mandatory minimum sentence, speaks clearly and  
16 eloquently to the issue of whether or not she's in any way,  
17 even the slightest way, a risk of flight. She has been here.  
18 She will be here for sentence. There's absolutely no  
19 question.

20 Is she a danger to the community? There has not been any  
21 assertion in the seven years since this incident has happened,  
22 that she has in any way been a danger to anybody. Indeed,  
23 aside from the ten or dozen or so of the character  
24 witnesses -- excuse me, a second, could I get some water --  
25 character witnesses you saw and heard, this is -- whatever may

1 have happened seven years ago, this is a person who lives her  
2 life with her daughter, who's just turned 3, with her partner  
3 John, teaching violin mostly to youngsters, volunteering to  
4 help senior citizens, and living really an exemplary life, a  
5 life to which we should all aspire.

6 So those two key factors -- and those factors are  
7 extremely important as laid out in United States v. Garcia.  
8 The Court in that case talked about -- one of the issues they  
9 talked about, the conduct of the particular defendant, could  
10 it be regarded as aberrational; that is, is it a person with a  
11 prior criminal history, who finally got caught? That's  
12 clearly not the case here.

13 This is a woman who's never been convicted of a crime, a  
14 woman who is a person of peace. I try not to interject my own  
15 personal observations, but I have known her now for two years,  
16 and this is a woman who lives with love in her life, and that  
17 is the way she relates to everybody, including me.

18 I have seen it. I have seen her friends. I know her  
19 family. I know her mother. I know her brothers. I see who  
20 she is. And that's one of the factors that is set forth in  
21 U.S. v. Garcia.

22 It also talks about, is there a prior history of violence  
23 that should be a factor? Needless to say, there is no prior  
24 history of violence.

25 The next question set forth in Garcia, and that is, is she

1 likely to contribute to society if she remains on bail? Well,  
2 I have already addressed that. And it is our view that indeed  
3 she is a person who does contribute to society every day.

4 Garcia specifically addresses the question of whether or  
5 not the act is a violent act and what -- how the Court in this  
6 case, this Court, should view that. It actually -- the Court  
7 actually and specifically addresses that issue.

8 The language that it uses, the Ninth Circuit, that even if  
9 the act were a violent act, they do consider the possibility  
10 of the opportunity for discretion for the Court in this case,  
11 even if it was a violent act, if it did not involve a threat  
12 or injury to another person.

13 Now, it is true that arson by its nature presents a risk  
14 to fire fighters and first responders. It appears that the  
15 people who were responsible for this arson at the University  
16 of Washington did take into account the possible danger to  
17 other individuals. The fire was set at 2:00 or 3:00 in the  
18 morning, or thereabouts. And it appears from the testimony of  
19 the two women -- that would be Kolar and Phillabaum -- that  
20 there was even a discussion of the presence of a bicycle,  
21 would that mean that maybe somebody was present?

22 So the people who did commit this crime were very much  
23 mindful of the possibility of injuring people. And that is  
24 not in any way to suggest that arson is a good thing; indeed  
25 it's not good at all.

1 But as the Ninth Circuit contemplated in Garcia, even a  
2 violent act has to be examined and can't be regarded just as a  
3 violent act without examination by the judicial officer, in  
4 this case yourself, as to the nature of the violent act.

5 There also is the factor set forth in Garcia as to whether  
6 or not incarceration would undermine the result of a  
7 successful appeal. Obviously that translates to, if there are  
8 nonfrivolous appellate issues, keeping a person in to serve  
9 his or her time wherein there is an eventual successful  
10 appeal, very much undermines, completely undermines the  
11 concept of prevailing on appeal.

12 Garcia also mentions the factor of whether imprisonment  
13 would be unduly harsh for a particular defendant. And it does  
14 mention the fact that Garcia itself -- Garcia involved two  
15 correctional officers in the state prison in California; and  
16 one of them had a cancer diagnosis -- lymphoma diagnosis. And  
17 the Court actually remanded the case to the District Court of  
18 Appeals and remanded the issue to the District Court for  
19 determination as to whether or not under that particular  
20 issue, the illness of one of the two defendants should be  
21 assimilated into the court's decision.

22 In this case, there fortunately is no physical illness,  
23 but there really is a very important factor here that I would  
24 ask the Court to consider, especially given the utter  
25 reliability of Ms. Waters in terms of appearing, in terms of



1 who she is, and whether or not she presents a risk to anyone  
2 in the population.

3 Her daughter is everything to her, and she is everything  
4 to her daughter. I don't -- this may be addressed again the  
5 end of May at the time of sentencing, but I really urge the  
6 Court to call upon its humanity and understand that the  
7 concept of hardship does and should contemplate the  
8 significance to the daughter and to Ms. Waters and to her  
9 family; and for her to prepare to be sentenced on May 30. I  
10 don't see any harm. There's no harm to the state. There's no  
11 harm to the federal government for her to remain on the same  
12 bail conditions until the date of sentencing at least.

13 The case cited in Garcia is United States v. Handy,  
14 H-A-N-D-Y, 761 F.2d 1279, at 1280. And it addresses the issue  
15 of whether or not there are substantial appellate issues. And  
16 it essentially defines the term "substantial" as issues that  
17 are not frivolous.

18 We believe that there are a number of issues that are not  
19 frivolous, and I am not going to go deeply into them, but I do  
20 want to mention some of them.

21 It is true that the Court has not found, in our motions,  
22 has not found that relief would be required at the time of the  
23 motions. But there are a number of things -- and this is not  
24 an exhaustive list, just what has come to mind last night and  
25 today -- as issues that are not frivolous.

1       The first one that comes to mind is the -- not just  
2 introduction to the jury in closing arguments by the  
3 prosecutor of a document that was not in evidence, it was not  
4 just a casual mention, that it was very much a part of the  
5 argument that was made by the prosecution in its closing  
6 arguments. And that document would be records of -- bank  
7 records of Justin Solondz. I forget the exhibit number, but  
8 the document was not in evidence. And the thread of the story  
9 was that Mr. Solondz withdrew \$200 from his account which  
10 wound up -- from his bank account, which the argument went --  
11 wound up being given to Mr. Corrina, the cousin, whose wife  
12 rented the car.

13       So even though the Court did give a corrective  
14 instruction, we believe it is a substantial appellate issue.

15       The second substantial appellate issue involves what we  
16 regard as extremely serious Brady violations, that continue to  
17 this day. That there are issues with regard to --  
18 particularly the interview of Jennifer Kolar on December 16,  
19 2005. We believe that the testimony of Agent Halla -- that  
20 procedurally -- I should say logistically, there exists --  
21 there would exist in the FBI computer records of earlier  
22 versions of the 302s finalized, as he said on February 9 of  
23 '06, that would reflect -- that the earlier versions which are  
24 in the possession today of the United States Government, that  
25 would constitute an extremely serious Brady material.

1       A third issue that we believe is substantial is the impact  
2 of the fires that were set, I think it was early Monday  
3 morning. And before the Court had the opportunity to address  
4 the jury on those issues, which occurred about -- between  
5 about 9 or 10 a.m. on that Monday, there was very likely  
6 substantial exposure to the jurors as to those fires.

7       And there were two aspects to it that are of some  
8 importance. One is the explanation and the actual showing of  
9 the bedsheet that had been spray painted, which included the  
10 logo, as it were, "ELF."

11       The other thing is that at that time, the newspaper  
12 reports all spoke of not just hearing explosions, but it was  
13 clear that timing devices had been used. Again, this is all  
14 before the Court -- before we had the opportunity to bring it  
15 to the attention of the Court and the Court had the  
16 opportunity to address the jurors on. So I am not faulting  
17 anybody at all here. I'm saying the circumstances were such  
18 that this was presented to the jury at an extremely delicate  
19 time. They had deliberated on a Friday; they were resuming  
20 their deliberations on Monday.

21       It appears now -- and I have something I want to put in  
22 the court file -- a story from yesterday's Seattle Times,  
23 indicating that the reports of the timing devices and  
24 explosions were erroneous.

25       Now, what in fact happened, the Court did instruct the

1 jury: Don't read, don't watch the news and don't listen to  
2 the radio, not just at our request, but I am sure the Court  
3 was going to do that anyway. The practical effect of that is  
4 the corrective aspect that there were no timing devices and  
5 there were no explosions, is something the jury probably does  
6 not know.

7 So the damaging part they got, I believe, and the, let's  
8 call it more helpful part, they didn't get. All I am saying  
9 is -- I am not asking the Court to make any determination; all  
10 I am saying is we regard it as a substantial and nonfrivolous  
11 appellate issue.

12 We also believe that another nonfrivolous appellate issue  
13 is the introduction by the government of so many other arsons  
14 that were attributed to, or taken credit for, by the Earth  
15 Liberation Front. Without belaboring it, the Court knows that  
16 we objected to it. We found that -- and we would understand  
17 that, yes, in order to prove up the conspiracy, there had to  
18 be some evidence of that nature, but we feel that it was so  
19 overdone that it inured to the detriment of our client.

20 As a separate issue, but related, there is this literature  
21 that Jennifer Kolar turned over to the government, at some  
22 time a couple months after she was first questioned. And  
23 according to Jennifer Kolar, it was in a folder that had  
24 Ms. Waters' fingerprint on the folder. None of the literature  
25 had Ms. Waters' fingerprints, although some of it did have

1 Justin Solondz' fingerprints.

2 We believe that a nonfrivolous issue -- that was raised in  
3 that way and another way, and we believe that it was raised to  
4 instill fear in the jury, and we believe it may have been  
5 successful -- is that Mr. Bartlett apparently took a yellow  
6 highlighter, and on his own he highlighted the exhibits and  
7 had a witness read some very inflammatory material from some  
8 of those documents that may or may not have been provided to  
9 Ms. Kolar by Ms. Waters.

10 Again, without belaboring it, among the issues there were:  
11 We -- presumably the anarchists or the Earth Liberation  
12 Front -- won't stop here. It's going to be the Statue of  
13 Liberty. It's going to be Disneyland. It's going to be, as I  
14 remember, other national historic sites.

15 We regard that as very inflammatory, unnecessary; and in  
16 short, presents a substantial nonfrivolous appellate issue.

17 Another -- and the last of these issues that come to mind  
18 now, although there are others -- is some of the impeachment  
19 that was utilized in cross-examining Briana Waters suggesting  
20 that, for example, that she had found a way to make money from  
21 being accused in this case and facing 35 years in prison, was  
22 so over the top and so inflammatory and so prejudicial, that  
23 in itself presents a nonfrivolous issue for appeal.

24 Similarly, the suggestion that Ms. Waters orchestrated who  
25 comes to Court, and when they come to court, was also

1 unnecessarily inflammatory, had no basis in fact, and was  
2 intended to, and we believe may well have, prejudiced the  
3 jury.

4 I say all this simply to say that we believe that there  
5 are very substantial, nonfrivolous, appellate issues. And  
6 those, taken in conjunction with the apparently undisputed  
7 assertions that we make that Ms. Waters is in no way a flight  
8 risk, is in no way a danger to anyone in the community,  
9 combined with one more factor, that is, Judge, you have seen  
10 Ms. Waters. You have seen her family. You have seen her  
11 friends. We have not brought her child to court because we  
12 thought that would be inappropriate, both for the child and as  
13 an indication that we were seeking sympathy.

14 The Court has seen what kind of person she is. I ask the  
15 Court to reach into its heart and at least through May --  
16 through the sentencing date, permit Ms. Waters to be with her  
17 child and to be with her family.

18 Thank you.

19 THE COURT: All right.

20 MR. BARTLETT: Your Honor, with regard to the Court's  
21 discretion, I want to be clear the Court does have discretion;  
22 it has discretion in a very limited matter. The discretion  
23 the Court has would be defined that there are exceptional  
24 circumstances that this defendant presents to the Court. I  
25 would suggest to the Court that there's nothing close to

1 exceptional circumstances this defendant presents to the  
2 Court.

3 Mr. Bloom indicated, I believe the quote was, that "She's  
4 lived a life to which we all aspire."

5 I beg to differ. This defendant is now a convicted felon.  
6 She was an integral part of one of the most serious arsons  
7 ever to occur in this district. She committed an arson that  
8 caused over \$6 million in damages. She destroyed the life of  
9 Sarah Reichard.

10 She has shown not one wit of remorse with regard to her  
11 actions. And in fact, since the day this arson occurred, all  
12 she has shown is an incredible inability to deal with her own  
13 actions.

14 In addition, to compound her prior felony actions, she  
15 came into this court and committed perjury, not just blatant  
16 perjury, but she cleverly tried to weave a story fitting the  
17 physical records that she had to explain, lies upon lies. I  
18 would suggest to the Court that is not a life to which we all  
19 aspire.

20 What she has shown is an inability to accept what I  
21 believe was always inevitable: That she would be held  
22 accountable for these charges and she would go to jail for  
23 five years. Today is the first time that she is realizing  
24 this is what's going to happen.

25 Mr. Bloom has repeatedly told us how devoted she is to her

1 child. So I ask the Court to consider, what is she going to  
2 do? She's going away for at least five years. And I would  
3 suggest to the Court it will be substantially more than that  
4 when the government's sentencing recommendation is finally  
5 before the Court.

6 So what is her choice; to stay here, go away for a number  
7 of years, miss the heart of her child's stuff, or to run, to  
8 flee? I would suggest it's an easy choice for this defendant.

9 There is nothing Mr. Bloom said, not one thing he said,  
10 that allows this court to say there are exceptional  
11 circumstances.

12 She is a mother with a child. In fact, that is what many  
13 defendants before this court unfortunately are. In her case,  
14 she's actually more fortunate than most. She has a partner  
15 who is devoted to their child. There is a support group that  
16 exists that will raise the child.

17 This defendant needs to understand there are not special  
18 rules for Briana Waters.

19 Congress has passed a law which requires defendants such  
20 as her to be incarcerated, not to be incarcerated at some  
21 point in time, but to be incarcerated as soon as they are  
22 convicted.

23 We are asking the Court to follow the law.

24 THE COURT: All right. Now, of course I guess in  
25 anticipation of this particular time as to what could possibly



1 happen, the Court has reviewed and looked at 3143, which talks  
2 about this very thing in terms of crime of violence, and of  
3 course it fits that description.

4 It says that upon conviction the Court shall detain,  
5 unless the Court makes certain findings, and under 3143, it's  
6 not in the disjunctive; the Court must find for an acquittal  
7 or new trial, that the evidence would tend to point to that;  
8 or that the government would recommend no sentence of  
9 imprisonment. We know that's not the case, as she faces under  
10 the statute a mandatory minimum of, as I see it, five years on  
11 this conviction. And then, which is an "and," clear and  
12 convincing evidence that she won't flee or pose a danger.

13 Now, that's under 3143. The exceptions really come in to  
14 refer to 3145, and these things are not always easy to read,  
15 but they talk about appeal of a detention order. That is, if  
16 she's ordered detained, what she can do there -- and it calls  
17 for exceptional circumstances, or at least reasons --  
18 exceptional reasons as to release; and the case law deals with  
19 that.

20 One of the cases I have looked at dealing with this very  
21 thing says that this is mandated unless it is done in this  
22 way. Now, what I have heard here, I don't know if I would  
23 classify it maybe as a detention hearing, because I really  
24 haven't heard anything to get into some exceptional reasons or  
25 some proof that would be acceptable to the Court. I don't

1 know where those are, but under 3145, she is entitled to what  
2 I have determined to be a prompt hearing on that issue. I  
3 guess that's where this case is.

4 So in light of all I have read on this and what I know  
5 about this case, and all the things I have considered, she has  
6 appeared; there's no question about that, but I think that the  
7 burden has shifted in terms of all of this.

8 So I see the Court has no alternative here at this point  
9 other than to order her detained pending sentencing, subject  
10 to 3143, and that would be a prompt hearing as to whether or  
11 not the exceptional reasons can be satisfied, that that can be  
12 done.

13 So that will be the Court's decision, that she will be  
14 remanded into the custody of the Marshals, and I need to talk  
15 to you now about having this prompt hearing as to exceptional  
16 reasons why she should be released pending sentencing.

17 I will hear from you on that.

18 MR. BLOOM: Could we have just a moment, please?

19 THE COURT: All right.

20 (Brief pause.)

21 MR. BLOOM: May I inquire of the Court; I am not  
22 quite clear what the Court has in mind in terms of a hearing,  
23 presentation of evidence?

24 THE COURT: Other than your allocution, I guess,  
25 something beyond that; I don't know what you've got to say

1 here to deal with something that would convince me that it's  
2 exceptional in some way.

3 I can refer you to a case, if you want to look at that, or  
4 whatever you've got other than -- it seems to say that flight  
5 in and of itself, that issue doesn't always carry the day that  
6 everything has been done up to now in that sort of a way to be  
7 convinced otherwise. Let me refer you to -- and maybe you  
8 might want to look at this case that deals with these issues.

9 Why don't you take a look at United States v. Schlesinger?  
10 I am not finding the exact cite here on it. It's in the --  
11 Let me send that out to you from the law clerk. In fact, I  
12 may just have them duplicate a copy from that; but I want you  
13 to do your own thing as to the things you think I should  
14 consider.

15 What I guess what I am asking, in terms of the hearing and  
16 giving her that right to have that hearing and present that  
17 evidence to deal with the detention aspect of it --

18 MR. BLOOM: Could we break for lunch and address the  
19 Court on that after lunch? I would like to look at that case.

20 THE COURT: All right, you can do that.

21 Advise my chambers after lunch as to a date.

22 I will have to round up the attorneys on that. I will  
23 have you all back here and have that done.

24 As of now, the defendant will be remanded.

25 MR. FOX: Your Honor, before we break, could I ask

1 the Court something else on another subject?

2 MR. BLOOM: Can I just stay with this for a moment?

3 MR. FOX: Sure.

4 MR. BLOOM: Thank you. I am also going to ask the  
5 Court to consider, given that there have been -- I really  
6 reassert that there's zero risk of flight, despite  
7 Mr. Bartlett's claim here, but we have -- if it's possible to  
8 in some way amend the bail conditions so that there's  
9 additional security.

10 THE COURT: I will hear whatever you have to say  
11 about it. I am trying to give you a chance to tell me when  
12 would be the appropriate time to do that. Do you want time to  
13 look at whatever you have, and then you need to advise the  
14 Court so the Court can set that?

15 It says prompt hearing, but until I hear something, what  
16 you are saying to me, then I can answer that question.

17 MR. BLOOM: If we could plan to see you at 1:00.

18 THE COURT: I have a meeting, so I probably won't be  
19 back here until 1:30, somewhere close to 2:00, but in that  
20 timeframe. You can let my staff know ahead of time. They  
21 will get word to me, but I will be back here in chambers at  
22 least by that time.

23 MR. BLOOM: Okay.

24 THE COURT: All right.

25 MR. FOX: The other quick matter, I wonder, given the

1 Court's order, or the recitation of the local rule on contact  
2 with the jurors, we would like permission to contact the  
3 jurors to find out whether they were exposed to the  
4 prejudicial publicity of those fires on Monday morning.

5 So I am asking the Court now, while we are all here, to  
6 give us the authority to contact the jurors and find out what  
7 they heard and whether it in fact had played a role in their  
8 deliberations.

9 The only way to do that is by contacting them and finding  
10 out what happened on the way to court on that day.

11 THE COURT: All right.

12 MR. BARTLETT: Your Honor, the United States would  
13 object. First of all, the Court polled the jury on whether or  
14 not that had any impact. They indicated it had not.

15 Second of all, the verdict indicates they were not unduly  
16 prejudiced by any more information.

17 Third, I think especially in their case, given what's gone  
18 on and what they are probably going to read about on all the  
19 news articles they haven't read over the last couple days, I  
20 think it would be very disconcerting for these jurors to have  
21 defense or defense investigators contacting them at their home  
22 or work with regard to this issue.

23 I strongly object it to, and I don't think there's any  
24 need for it at this point in time.

25 THE COURT: I understand the question. You want to

1 contact them. You said no.

2 I will give you my answer when I talk to you folks this  
3 afternoon.

4 MR. BARTLETT: Thank you.

5 THE COURT: All right.

6 THE CLERK: All rise, court is in recess.

7 (Court in recess.)

8 AFTERNOON SESSION

9 (Back in open court at 2:25 p.m.)

10 THE COURT: All right. I guess I said I'd come back  
11 out to see where we are in terms of trying to deal with any  
12 hearing if any is necessary. Of course, it's on the defense  
13 to present that.

14 MR. FOX: Good afternoon, Your Honor.

15 Two things which relate to the hearing. I would  
16 respectfully suggest that the Court is not required to detain  
17 Ms. Waters until that hearing takes place. The reason I say  
18 that is that if that were the case, Jennifer Kolar would be in  
19 custody right now.

20 It is not mandatory that someone be detained pending  
21 sentencing. I know what the statute says, but I know also  
22 that Ms. Kolar, who pled guilty to crimes of violence, who is  
23 out pending sentencing, and whether the government has made a  
24 motion or not, isn't really dispositive.

25 The issue is: Has the Court put her in custody pending

1 sentencing, and the Court has not.

2 So I would ask the Court to release Ms. Waters on  
3 electronic home monitoring, on some heightened level of  
4 custody, until we have a detention hearing.

5 There's no requirement, given what's happened with the  
6 other defendants, that she be taken into custody today.

7 In terms of setting the detention hearing, there are  
8 witnesses that we would like to present to the Court. It's  
9 going to take a little bit of time to get that lined up.

10 So that's why we were looking for a hearing next week some  
11 time.

12 THE COURT: When would you be talking about? The  
13 Court will be out of the jurisdiction until sometime on  
14 Thursday.

15 MR. FOX: Well, when we raised possibly next Friday,  
16 Pat indicated that we could have a Magistrate before then.  
17 The government indicated that if we went in front of a  
18 Magistrate that, you know -- they believe that neither side  
19 would be appealing to Your Honor in any case. So I think the  
20 government was requesting that you hold the detention hearing.

21 We are satisfied with a Magistrate, if we could have a  
22 hearing Tuesday or Wednesday. But if that's not going to  
23 happen, then we would ask the Court to hold it as soon as the  
24 Court can hold it.

25 THE COURT: Well, I don't think the fact that it's an

1   appealable thing from them is the real issue here.

2           The issue is she's entitled to it and how quickly you can  
3   get it to. So I don't think there's a prohibition as -- it  
4   may add another step, but you deal with the extra step and  
5   that's it.

6           MR. FOX: Wednesday for us would be fine.

7           THE COURT: I won't be here Wednesday. I won't be  
8   back in hearing, as far as court, until Thursday.

9           MR. BARTLETT: Wednesday afternoon after 2:00.  
10   Mr. Friedman has a Ninth Circuit argument, so would not be  
11   available until 2:00.

12           THE COURT: Like I said, I won't be here until  
13   Wednesday. Do you want it set before a Magistrate?

14           MR. FOX: Magistrate after 2:00 would be fine.

15           THE COURT: Now, I need to find their availability in  
16   terms of that. I don't know, we have to find out -- Pat, can  
17   you find out?

18           It may involve the two-step process, that's all I am  
19   saying. But you have a right for them to -- this is an issue  
20   that they can deal with as well.

21           MR. FOX: Releasing Ms. Waters on electronic home  
22   monitoring?

23           THE COURT: I am going to leave it as set until that  
24   hearing.

25           MR. FOX: Okay.



1           THE COURT: Then I will hear everything you have to  
2 say. I understand what you are saying. You are asking this  
3 court to also -- and I suppose you will make the same  
4 presentation to the Magistrate Judge. You see no difference  
5 in the situation involving Ms. Kolar as you see this  
6 defendant; that's what you are saying.

7           MR. FOX: Right.

8           THE COURT: Now, that of course wasn't involved in  
9 any statute at some time -- I don't remember addressing that  
10 issue in that fashion, but I understand what you are saying.

11          All right, anything else?

12          MR. BARTLETT: No.

13          THE COURT: Anything else?

14          MR. BLOOM: Excuse me, we do have a couple other  
15 things.

16          MR. FOX: Other than this issue?

17          THE COURT: I want Pat to make sure that's available  
18 before we say that's it.

19          We are looking at Wednesday, March 12, 2:00 p.m.; find out  
20 if that's a go.

21          All right. Something else you want to present?

22          MR. FOX: Your Honor, there's still the issue I  
23 raised this morning regarding contact with the jurors,  
24 particularly to find out about their exposure to the arsons in  
25 the media from Woodinville Monday morning.

1        So we are asking permission to contact the jurors to find  
2 out what they knew and whether this was discussed at all, and  
3 what effect this all had on their deliberative process.

4        The only way we can do that is by talking to them. We  
5 have no other way of finding that information out.

6        So, to find out whether or not Ms. Waters's Sixth  
7 Amendment right to a jury trial and her due process rights  
8 under the Fifth Amendment were violated, we have to conduct  
9 those interviews.

10        THE COURT: All right. I thought about what you  
11 said, but my ruling is the same, not to make any contact with  
12 them; and I say that because I am finding no reason to do  
13 that.

14        I think my instruction, as I instructed them concerning  
15 that charge, was there, and you saw the results of that. And  
16 I think perhaps the fact that the jury deadlocked on these  
17 other things kind of answered that question in a sort of a way  
18 anyhow. So it didn't impact them that they will say, okay, I  
19 am going to dump this whole thing. That didn't happen.

20        So my ruling will stand. Okay.

21        MR. BLOOM: One other brief matter.

22        Ms. Waters suffers from asthma. She does have an inhaler.  
23 The Marshals were very nice, but apparently the particular  
24 inhaler she has is dated, but the Marshal assures me if they  
25 somehow decide they want to take that from her, they will

1 provide a new one.

2 THE COURT: I would think that whatever issues may be  
3 along that line, they would make that request to the Marshals.  
4 I am sure they will address that.

5 MR. BLOOM: It can be a serious matter.

6 THE COURT: I understand, and I would assume she will  
7 keep them up-to-date with a certain amount of forewarning, if  
8 you will, on issues she needs to have in a period of time that  
9 they can react to it.

10 MR. BLOOM: She's been having trouble breathing since  
11 she's been taken into custody, although it's not cured at the  
12 moment.

13 THE COURT: I would say she should keep them informed  
14 in some way. They will see about that; that's their job.

15 MR. BLOOM: So we'll await word?

16 THE COURT: We need to await word on that. If that's  
17 not a go, then you need to let me know so I will come back  
18 here and we'll do something else. But right now, if they can  
19 take it, one of them, I don't know who that will be. I know  
20 that Judge Arnold is out of town; he's due back Sunday.

21 THE CLERK: They are both here.

22 THE COURT: Then find out.

23 THE CLERK: I will.

24 THE COURT: All right. We are at recess.

25 THE CLERK: All rise, Court is at recess.

(Proceedings concluded.)

\* \* \* \* \*

C E R T I F I C A T E

I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from  
the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

/S/ Teri Hendrix

April 4, 2008

Teri Hendrix, Court Reporter

Date